CLAIMS

1 1. A method for providing printer information to a user, the method comprising:

2 displaying a dialog box to a user in response to a user input, the dialog box

3 including a link to an embedded web server (EWS) of a printer, the EWS maintaining

4 status information corresponding to the printer; and

5 in response to the user actuating the link, providing the user with the status

6 information corresponding to the printer from the EWS.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

2 the dialog box comprises multiple pages; and

3 in displaying the dialog box to the user, the link is provided on a first of the

4 pages that is displayed.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the dialog box is a print dialog box.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the print dialog box comprises a Properties

2 actuator, which, in response to actuation thereof, displays multiple pages; and

3 the link is provided on a first of the pages displayed to the user in response to

4 actuating the Properties actuator.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the print dialog box comprises a Properties

2 actuator, which, in response to actuation thereof, displays multiple pages; and

3 the link is provided on one of the pages displayed to the user in response to

4 actuating the Properties actuator.

1   6.   The method of claim 3, wherein the print dialog box comprises a Properties

2   actuator, which, in response to actuation thereof, displays a Layout page and an About

3   page; and

4   the link is provided on the About page.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the EWS comprises information

2   corresponding to a service manual of the printer.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein:

2   the method additionally comprises providing a list of printers from which the

3   user is able to print, each of the printers having corresponding printer information

4   associated therewith; and

5   in response to the user selecting one of the printers of the list, a corresponding

6   link to a EWS that comprises the printer information associated with the printer

7   selected is displayed.

1   9.   A method for providing printer status information to a user, the method

2   comprising:

3   providing information corresponding to a link to a user of a printer, the link

4   corresponding to an embedded web server (EWS), the EWS maintaining status

5   information corresponding to the printer, the link being displayable to the user in

6   response to a user input such that, in response to the user actuating the link, the user is

7   provided with the status information corresponding to the printer.

1   10.   The method of claim 9, wherein, in providing information corresponding to a

2   link to a user of a printer, the information corresponding to the link is installed in the

3   printer.

1   11.   The method of claim 9, wherein, in providing information corresponding to a

2   link to a user of a printer, the user installs the information corresponding to the link in

3   the printer.

1   12.   The method of claim 9, wherein:

2   the user has access to multiple printers; and

3   the method further comprises:

4   providing the user with a link to an EWS that comprises printer information

5   corresponding to one of the multiple printers currently selected by the user.

1   13.   A system for providing printer status information to a user, the system

2   comprising:

3   a status link system operative to display a link to an embedded web server

4   (EWS) of a printer to a user in response to a user input, the link being displayed in

5   association with a dialog box, the EWS maintaining status information corresponding

6   to the printer such that, in response to the user actuating the link, the user is provided

7   with the status information corresponding to the printer.

1   14.   The system of claim 13, further comprising:

2   a computer system comprising:

3   a processor operative to execute instructions;

4   memory communicating with the processor and operative to store

5   instruction executable by the processor; and

6   printer interface instructions stored by the memory, the printer interface

7   instructions being operative to display a print dialog box to the user in response to a

8   user input, the link being displayed in association with the print dialog box.

1   15.   The system of claim 13, wherein:

2   the printer interface instructions are executable to display a list of printers with

3   which the computer system has access, each of the printers having corresponding

4   printer information associated therewith; and

5   in response to the user selecting one of the printers of the list, the status link

6   system is operative to display a corresponding link to an EWS that maintains the

7   printer status information associated with the printer selected.

1   16.   The system of claim 13, further comprising:

2   a printer communicating with the computer system.

1   17.   The system of claim 13, wherein the status link system is stored by the printer.

1   18.   The system of claim 13, wherein the status link system is stored by the

2   computer system.

1   19.   The system of claim 13, wherein the status link system is stored on a

2   computer-readable medium.

1   20.   The system of claim 13, further comprising:

2   means for displaying the link.